



INTERNATIONAL  
OIL POLLUTION  
COMPENSATION  
FUND 1992

92FUND/Circ.50  
30 June 2005

**Application of the 1992 Fund Convention  
to the exclusive economic zone or an area determined under  
Article 3(a)(ii) of the 1992 Fund Convention**

Twenty-nine States have so far submitted information on the establishment of an exclusive economic zone or the determination of an area under Article 3(a)(ii) of the 1992 Fund Convention, as listed below:

Algeria	Finland	Latvia	Spain
Australia	France	Marshall Islands	Sweden
Bahamas	Germany	Mauritius	Tunisia
Belgium	Grenada	Mexico	United Kingdom
Canada	Ireland	Netherlands	Uruguay
Croatia	Italy	New Zealand	Vanuatu
Denmark	Jamaica	Norway	Venezuela
Fiji			

As instructed by the Assembly at its 5th session, held in October 2000 (document 92FUND/A.5/28, paragraph 22.11), the Director will from time to time issue circulars containing information submitted by Member States.

In December 2000 a circular was issued containing a Note Verbale from the Embassy of Finland in London informing the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization of the limits of the territorial sea of Finland (92FUND/Circ.25). A declaration has now been received from Finland on the establishment of an exclusive economic zone. That information is attached to the present circular.

\* \* \*



EMBASSY OF FINLAND  
London

LON5010-41

FILE: EEZ		COPY:	
DCN#: 084		RECEIVED: - 5 JAN 2005	
SEEN BY:		A. M.	
COMMENTS			

VERBAL NOTE

The Embassy of Finland present their compliments to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds and have the honour to inform the IOPC Funds of the entry into force of the Act on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland (1058/2004) on 1 February 2005. According to the Act Finland establishes an exclusive economic zone comprising the part of the sea which is immediately adjacent to its territorial waters. The outer limits of the zone are determined by the agreements concluded by Finland with foreign States and the outer limit location of the zone is given by a Government Decree. The Decree enters into force on 1 February 2005.

The Act on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland, the Government Decree on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland, an unofficial translation of the Act and the Decree as well as an illustrative map of the exclusive economic zone are enclosed.

The Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the IOPC Funds the assurance of their highest consideration.

London, 30 December 2004

ENCL.



Office of the Director  
International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds  
Portland House  
Stag Place  
London SW1E 5PN

## Act on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland

Issued in Helsinki, November 26, 2004

The following is enacted in accordance with the decision of Parliament:

### Chapter 1

#### General provisions

##### Section 1

###### *The exclusive economic zone*

The exclusive economic zone of Finland shall comprise the part of the sea which is immediately adjacent to the territorial waters of Finland and the outer limit of which is determined by the agreements concluded by Finland with foreign States and the outer limit location of which is given by a Government Decree.

##### Section 2

###### *The rights and jurisdiction of the State of Finland in the exclusive economic zone*

The State of Finland shall, in the exclusive economic zone, have the right of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, and the right to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone.

Finland shall, in the exclusive economic zone, have jurisdiction as provided for in international law with regard to the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and other structures and to the protection of the marine environment and marine

scientific research, and other rights and duties provided for in international law.

### Chapter 2

#### Legislation applicable in the exclusive economic zone

##### Section 3

###### *Legislation applicable to environmental protection and water construction*

The Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (468/1994), the Environmental Protection Act (86/2000) and the Water Act (264/1961) and any provisions issued by virtue of them shall be applied in the exclusive economic zone.

Provisions on the prevention of water pollution caused by normal operation of vessels and on measures to prevent oil damage in the exclusive economic zone are laid down in the Act on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (300/1979). Further, the Waste Act (1072/1993) shall be applied in the exclusive economic zone as provided for separately.

##### Section 4

###### *Legislation applicable to fishing, hunting and nature conservation*

What is provided for or prescribed in the legislation on fishing, hunting and nature

conservation and the provisions on the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Community or by virtue of them, and what has been agreed with foreign States, shall be in force in respect of fishing, hunting, preservation of living natural resources and nature conservation in the exclusive economic zone.

## Section 5

### *Legislation applicable to the protection of submarine cables and pipelines, and to soil materials and minerals*

What is provided in the Act on the Protection of Certain Submarine Cables and Pipelines (145/1965) shall be in force in the exclusive economic zone.

The Water Act shall be applied to the extraction of soil materials in the exclusive economic zone.

The Mining Act (503/1965) and any provisions issued by virtue of it shall be applied to any exploration, prospecting and occupation aimed at exploitation of minerals and to utilisation of minerals in the exclusive economic zone.

## Chapter 3

### **Economic exploitation of the exclusive economic zone and any exploration aimed at it, and construction in the exclusive economic zone**

## Section 6

### *The right of exploitation*

The Government may, on application, give its consent to the exploitation of natural resources of the seabed and its subsoil located in the exclusive economic zone and to exploration aimed at such exploitation or to carrying on, in the exclusive economic zone, of other activities aimed at the economic exploitation of the zone (*the right of exploitation*). The right of exploitation shall not apply to the activities referred to in section 4. The content of the application shall be prescribed by a Government Decree.

In paragraph 1, natural resources refer to minerals, rock materials and other non-living

resources of the seabed and its subsoil and plants and animals belonging to sedentary species which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile on or under the seabed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed or the subsoil.

A consent may be given for a fixed term or until further notice. The consent decision shall determine any conditions which are necessary for security or securing any rights which according to this Act belong to the State.

The consent decision may be revised, if the activities do not fulfil the conditions laid down in the decision. Suspension of the activities may be ordered on the same grounds. The decision on the suspension of the activities shall be taken by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The consent decision may also be cancelled, if the activities essentially violate the conditions laid down in the decision. The supervisory authority shall, without delay, inform the Ministry of Trade and Industry of any violation it has noticed.

## Section 7

### *Construction*

The Government may, on application, give its consent to the construction and use of artificial islands, installations and other structures used in activities referred to in section 6 and such other installations and structures as may interfere with the exercise, in the exclusive economic zone, of rights which according to international law belong to Finland. The content of the application shall be prescribed by a Government Decree.

In the decision, the recipient of the consent shall, to ensure safety of navigation, be obligated to remove, if possible, any disused installations and structures. The recipient of the consent shall also be obligated to inform the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the position, depth and dimensions of any installations and structures not entirely removed.

The consent may be given for a fixed term or until further notice. The consent decision shall determine any conditions which are necessary for security or securing any rights which according to this Act belong to the State. If the activities do not fulfil the conditions laid down in the decision or if, after the decision-making, the circumstances have changed essentially, the conditions of the de-

cision may be revised or the consent may be withdrawn. The supervisory authority shall, without delay, inform the Ministry of Trade and Industry of any violation it has noticed.

The decision may order that a safety zone be established around artificial islands, installations and structures constructed in accordance with this Act. The safety zone shall not exceed a distance of 500 metres around the artificial islands, installations or other structures, measured from each point of their outer edge, except as authorized by generally accepted international standards or as recommended by the competent international organization.

#### Chapter 4

### Marine scientific research

#### Section 8

##### *Marine scientific research*

In respect of any research which does not fall under the scope of section 4 or section 6, a notification shall be given to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. If the Ministry of Trade and Industry considers that the research project referred to in the notification on marine scientific research falls under the scope of section 6 or section 7, the Ministry shall inform the notifying party of it as soon as possible and no later than four months from receipt of the notification. In other cases, a notified research project may be started at the earliest six months from receipt of the notification, unless the Ministry of Trade and Industry decides that it can be started earlier. The content of a notification of marine scientific research shall be prescribed by a Government Decree.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry may prohibit proceeding with a research project, if the notified information about the research project is erroneous or if the party proceeding with the project is deemed incapable of fulfilling the obligations related to the research project ensuing from article 249 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Finnish Treaty Series 49—50/1996) because the party proceeding with the project has earlier failed to fulfil similar obligations. The Ministry of Trade and Industry shall inform of its prohibition decision within four

months from receipt of the notification.

#### Section 9

##### *Suspension and cessation of marine scientific research*

The Ministry of Trade and Industry may order suspension of any research referred to in section 8, if such research is not being conducted in accordance with the information communicated in a notification referred to in section 8, paragraph 1, or if the party conducting the research fails to comply with the provisions of article 249 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning the rights of the coastal State with respect to the marine scientific research project. The order of suspension shall be lifted immediately when the party conducting the research provides correct information about the research or fulfils the requirements of said article.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry may order a complete cessation of any marine scientific research, if any non-compliance with the information communicated in a notification referred to in section 8, paragraph 1 amounts to a major change in the research project or the research activities or if any of the defects referred to in section 9, paragraph 1 are not rectified within a reasonable period of time.

The supervisory authority shall, without delay, inform the Ministry of Trade and Industry of any violation or omission it has noticed.

#### Chapter 5

### Application of Finnish criminal law in the exclusive economic zone and penalties

#### Section 10

##### *Application of Finnish criminal law to offences committed in the exclusive economic zone*

Any offence and any punishable attempt of an offence committed on or directed against an artificial island, installation or other structure referred to in section 7 and located in the exclusive economic zone, shall, according to chapter 1, section 1 of the Penal Code

(39/1889), be considered as committed in Finland.

Any offence and any punishable attempt of an offence mentioned in sections 11—16 and committed elsewhere in the exclusive economic zone shall, according to chapter 1, section 1 of the Penal Code, be considered as committed in Finland.

If the offence referred to in paragraph 2 has been committed from a foreign vessel during its stay in the exclusive economic zone of Finland, the criminal case must not be investigated in Finland without an order for prosecution by the Prosecutor General, unless the case constitutes a case referred to in chapter 1, section 12, paragraph 2 of the Penal Code.

#### Section 11

##### *Environmental offences in the exclusive economic zone*

Any penalty for damaging of the environment, serious damaging of the environment, environmental violation, damaging of the environment through negligence and nature conservation offence committed in the exclusive economic zone in violation of the Acts mentioned in section 3, paragraph 1 shall be imposed in accordance with chapter 48, sections 1—5 of the Penal Code. The provisions of the Penal Code on corporate criminal liability shall apply to the offences mentioned in this paragraph.

Any penalty for violation of the Environmental Protection Act committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with section 116, paragraph 2 of the Environmental Protection Act, any penalty for a waste violation committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with section 60 of the Waste Act, and any penalty for a nature conservation violation committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with section 58, paragraph 2 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996).

#### Section 12

##### *Permit violation against the Water Act in the exclusive economic zone*

Any penalty for a permit violation against the Water Act committed in the exclusive

economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with chapter 13, section 3 of the Water Act.

#### Section 13

##### *Fishing offence, concealment of illegal catch, fishing violation and violation of the Common Fisheries Policy in the exclusive economic zone*

Any penalty for a fishing offence and concealment of illegal catch committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with chapter 48a, sections 2 and 4 of the Penal Code. In the imposition of the penalty, account shall also be taken of the provisions of chapter 48a, section 7 of the Penal Code.

Any penalty for a fishing violation committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with section 108 of the Fishing Act (286/1982).

Any penalty for violation of the Common Fisheries Policy committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with section 7, paragraph 1 of the Act on Implementing the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Community (1139/1994).

#### Section 14

##### *Hunting offence, concealment of illegal quarry, hunting violation and violation of provisions of the Hunting Act in the exclusive economic zone*

Any penalty for a hunting offence and concealment of illegal quarry committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with chapter 48a sections 1 and 4 of the Penal Code.

Any penalty for a hunting violation and violation of provisions of the Hunting Act committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with sections 74 and 75 of the Hunting Act (615/1993).

#### Section 15

##### *Mining violation in the exclusive economic zone*

Any penalty for a mining violation committed in the exclusive economic zone shall be imposed in accordance with section 62, paragraph 2 of the Mining Act.

#### Section 16

##### *Illegal activities in the exclusive economic zone*

Anyone who, deliberately or negligently,  
1) proceeds with activities referred to in section 6 or 7 without a consent of the Government,

2) acts against the conditions laid down in a decision referred to in section 6 or 7, or

3) acts against the prohibition referred to in section 8, paragraph 2,

shall be sentenced to a fine for *illegal activity in the exclusive economic zone*.

#### Chapter 6

##### **Miscellaneous provisions**

#### Section 17

##### *Law applicable on artificial islands, installations and other structures*

Finnish law shall apply on artificial islands, installations and other structures constructed in accordance with this Act as if the structure concerned was located in the nearest part of the Finnish territory.

#### Section 18

##### *Territorial competence of authorities*

In the exclusive economic zone, the regional environment centre shall act as the liaison authority referred to in the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure and the supervisory authority referred to in the Nature Conservation Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Water Act and the Waste Act. The competent regional environment centre shall be the centre by whose territory the project is located in the exclusive economic zone. The border between the territories of regional environment centres is considered to extend, without changing course, from the outer limit of the territorial waters

to the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone.

The Western Finland Environmental Permit Authority acts in the exclusive economic zone as a permit authority referred to in the Environmental Protection Act and the Water Act.

#### Section 19

##### *Supervision and orders of the frontier guard authority*

The activities referred to in sections 6—8 are supervised by the Frontier Guard. A decision referred to in sections 6—9 shall be notified without delay by the decision-maker to the Headquarters of the Frontier Guard. The Ministry of Trade and Industry shall, without delay, inform the Headquarters of the Frontier Guard also of a notification referred to in section 8, unless it considers that the research project referred to in the notification falls under the scope of section 6 or section 7. At the same time, the information shall also be given to the notifying party.

The frontier guard authority is entitled to order immediate cessation of any activities referred to in sections 6—8 which are conducted without a consent of the Government or a notification to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and any activities continued despite an order referred to in section 9.

#### Section 20

##### *Threat of a fine and threat of ordering performance at the defaulter's expense*

To ensure compliance with a decision made according to this Act, a threat of a fine or a threat of ordering performance at the defaulter's expense may be imposed as provided in the Act on Administrative Fines (1113/1990).

#### Section 21

##### *Use of coercive measures in criminal procedure*

On the basis of offences referred to in this Act and committed in the exclusive economic zone, coercive measures may be used

as provided in the Coercive Measures Act (450/1987). Section 28b of the Act on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (300/1979) lays down the prerequisites for the use of coercive measures in the investigation of an act referred to in section 28, paragraph 1 of that Act and committed from a foreign vessel in the exclusive economic zone of Finland.

## Section 22

### *Appeals*

Any decision made by the Government or the Ministry of Trade and Industry by virtue of this Act may be appealed against as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996).

Any other decision necessary for the implementation of a project referred to in this Act may be appealed against as provided separately.

## Section 23

### *The competent courts*

Any criminal cases referred to in this Act shall be processed by district courts mentioned in chapter 21, section 1 of the Maritime Act (674/1994). The competent court shall be the court whose judicial district can be considered nearest the scene of the offence, by applying the provisions of chapter 4, section 1, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the

Criminal Procedure Act (689/1997). For the purpose of this section, the limits of the judicial districts of these district courts shall be considered to extend, without changing course, from the outer limit of the territorial waters to the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone.

## Chapter 7

### **Entry into force**

#### Section 24

##### *Entry into force*

This Act shall enter into force on February 1, 2005.

This Act shall repeal the Continental Shelf Act (149/1965) of 5 March 1965 and the Act on the Fishing Zone of Finland (839/1974) of 15 November 1974 as subsequently amended. The provisions issued by virtue of the latter Act shall, however, remain in force.

Any permit issued by virtue of the Continental Shelf Act or any decision made by virtue of section 4 of the Continental Shelf Act which is in force when this Act enters into force shall apply, unless otherwise provided by virtue of this Act.

If reference is made to the Act on the Fishing Zone of Finland elsewhere in legislation, the provisions of this Act on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, instead of it.

Measures necessary for the implementation of this Act may be undertaken prior to its entry into force.

Helsinki, November 26, 2004

**President of the Republic of Finland**

**TARJA HALONEN**

Minister for Foreign Affairs *Erkki Tuomioja*



Unofficial translation provided by  
the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

## Government Decree

### on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland

Issued in Helsinki, December 2, 2004

In accordance with the Government decision, made on the submission of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the following is decreed by virtue of the Act on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland (1058/2004) of November 26, 2004:

#### Section 1

The starting point of the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone of Finland is, in the eastern Gulf of Finland, the southernmost terminal point of the state boundary between Finland and Russia (buoy N:o 16), wherefrom the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone extends to the west and southwest and passes through the following points, the latitudes and longitudes of which are given in the WGS84 coordinate system and which are connected by straight lines (loxodromes):

N:o	Northern latitude	Eastern longitude
1	60°10.296'	27°10.866'
2	60°10.296'	26°57.466'
3	60°10.096'	26°54.466'
4	60° 8.495'	26°47.466'
5	60° 6.495'	26°37.966'
6	60° 6.095'	26°32.166'
7	59°59.695'	26°20.366'

From point N:o 7 the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone extends in the Gulf of Finland and in the northern part of the Baltic Sea to the west and southwest and passes through the following points, the latitudes and longitudes of which are given in the WGS84 coordinate system and which are connected by straight lines (geodetic lines):

N:o	Northern latitude	Eastern longitude
8	59°59.678'	26°20.147'
9	59°59.095'	26°12.666'
10	59°58.095'	26° 7.966'
11	59°51.694'	25°58.067'
12	59°52.594'	25°27.566'
13	59°53.294'	25°10.166'
14	59°52.093'	24°57.166'
15	59°50.493'	24°49.266'
16	59°44.193'	24°24.367'
17	59°37.092'	23°54.367'
18	59°31.591'	23°29.667'
19	59°31.691'	23° 9.567'
20	59°24.891'	22°45.068'

21	59°22.790'	22° 9.868'
22	59°18.689'	21°46.568'
23	59°11.489'	21°11.168'
24	58°50.670'	20°28.888'

From point N:o 24 the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone extends in the northern part of the Baltic Sea and in the Åland Sea to the northwest and passes through the following points, the latitudes and longitudes of which are given in the WGS84 coordinate system and which are connected by straight lines (geodetic lines):

N:o	Northern latitude	Eastern longitude
25	58°51.776'	20°28.276'
26	59°26.701'	20° 9.200'
27	59°47.501'	19°39.497'
28	60°11.501'	19° 4.992'
29	60°14.115'	19° 6.162'

Point N:o 29 is the southernmost terminal point of the state boundary between Finland and Sweden to the south of the islet of Märket.

In the Gulf of Bothnia, to the north of the islet of Märket, from the northernmost terminal point of the state boundary between Finland and Sweden, the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone extends to the north and further to the northeast and passes through the following points, the latitudes and longitudes of which are given in the national coordinate system of Finland (KKJ) and which are connected by straight lines:

N:o	Northern latitude	Eastern longitude
30	60°40.7'	19°14.1'
31	62°42.0'	19°31.5'
32	63°20.0'	20°24.0'
33	63°29.1'	20°41.8'
34	63°31.3'	20°56.4'
35	63°40.0'	21°30.0'
36	65°30.9'	24° 8.2'

From point N:o 36 the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone extends to the north-northeast and ends at the southernmost terminal point of the state boundary between

Finland and Sweden to the south of the town of Tornio.

### Section 2

An application for a Government consent referred to in sections 6 and 7 of the Act on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland shall detail:

1) the name or corporate name, municipality or place of residence or registered office, and nationality of the applicant or the applicants;

2) a description of the nature and objectives of the activities;

3) a description of the methods and means to be used;

4) the precise geographical areas where the activities are to be carried out; and

5) the date of starting and duration of the activities.

The application shall be submitted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry at least six months before the planned date of starting the activities.

### Section 3

A notification referred to in section 8, paragraph 1 of the Act on the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland shall detail:

1) the name or corporate name, municipality or place of residence or registered office, and nationality of the party or parties conducting research project;

2) the name of the sponsoring institution, its director and the person in charge of the research project;

3) a description of the nature and objectives of the research project;

4) a description of the methods and means to be used, including the name, tonnage, type and class of the vessel, and a description of the scientific equipment;

5) the precise geographical areas where the research project is to be conducted; and

6) the expected date of first appearance and final departure of the research vessels, or deployment of the equipment and its removal, as appropriate; and

7) the extent to which it is considered that Finnish research institutions should be able

to participate or to be represented in the research.

The notification shall be given to the Ministry of Trade and Industry at least six months in advance of the expected starting date of the research project.

Section 4

This Decree shall enter into force on February 1, 2005.

Helsinki, December 2, 2004

*Matti Vanhanen*  
Prime Minister  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

Counsellor Marja Lehto

